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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Meet the Press

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SUBJECT Full Text

BILL MONROE: Our guest today on Meet the Press is Senator Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson, Democrat of Washington, a 1976 contender for the Democratic presidential nomination, he served last winter on President Reagan's transition advisory team. He is a member of the Armed Services, Intelligence, and Energy Committees.

Senator, you have not joined those senators on the Intelligence Committee calling for the resignation of William Casey as head of the CIA. But some of them say that his credibility is gone because he put an amateur, Mr. Hugel, in charge of clandestine operations, apparently without a painstaking check on his background, and because a judge recently found that he misled investors in a business deal 10 or 11 years ago.

What is your view of all this?

SENATOR HENRY JACKSON: Well, Mr. Monroe, the appropriate place to discuss those issues is before the Senate Intelligence Committee. I believe that Mr. Casey should have his day in court. He's not getting that up to now. And I would hope that this coming week, that this Mr. Casey will have an opportunity, under oath, to respond to the questions that have been raised.

Bear in mind, some of these questions go back for some time. Mr. Hugel affair took place several weeks ago. And very clearly, in my own mind, I'm going to reserve judgment until I've heard Mr. Casey respond to all of these allegations. I think that's the decent thing to do. But it looks to me like they're trying to lynch him in public.